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Letter dated 9 July 2008 from the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the Chairman of the Third Committee

I am writing to inform you that the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6 (Prog. 19)) to the Third Committee for its review and action under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".

I would like to further inform you that, owing to a shortage of time, the Committee was unable to review the amendments to programme 19 that were proposed by delegations. The Committee has therefore recommended transmitting to the Third Committee the draft conclusions and the amendments that were proposed, which are annexed to the present letter.

(*Signed*) **Ren** Yisheng
Chairman
Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Annex

Conclusions on and amendments to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 proposed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session

Conclusions

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed that peace and security, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations system, and welcomed the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in giving practical effect to this understanding.

2. The Committee expressed support for the overall orientation of programme 19, Human rights (see A/63/6 (Prog. 19)), which is guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity towards the full realization of all human rights, civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

3. The Committee emphasized that it is of utmost importance that the objectives pertaining to the support of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the Advisory Committee, the special procedures, the universal periodic review and the complaint procedure, namely, the promotion and protection of human rights, be fully accomplished through the provision by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of support and advice.

Amendments

Overall orientation

Paragraph 19.1

At the end of the paragraph, insert the words "and 62/219 on the report of the Human Rights Council".

Paragraph 19.2

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The programme is guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity in order to promote and encourage respect for human rights and to give practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community in this regard, as expressed through the United Nations. The programme also works to remove obstacles to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations, including with relevant parties. The 2005 World Summit Outcome acknowledged peace and security, development and human rights as being interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations system, providing foundations for collective security and well-being. The United Nations human rights programme has a role in making development equitable, sustainable and

responsive to the needs of people and in relation to conflict prevention and resolution."

Paragraph 19.3

At the end of the first sentence insert the words: "and within the framework of the overall competence, authority and decisions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council".

Replace the third sentence with the following:

"By the end of 2010, the Office will complete, as appropriate, its reform in the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, which took note of the High Commissioner's plan of action."

Paragraph 19.4

Move the paragraph to follow paragraph 19.5 and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Delete the first sentence.

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"Increased support for human rights implementation will continue to be provided to requesting Member States through, inter alia, assistance to national systems of human rights protection, national capacity-building, technical cooperation, human rights education and other relevant activities."

or

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"Increased support for human rights implementation will continue to be provided to requesting Member States through an agreed framework which may include, inter alia, field activities to assist national systems of human rights protection, national capacity-building, technical cooperation, human rights education and other activities."

Paragraph 19.5

In the first sentence replace the word "including" with the words "in particular" and delete the words "protecting the environment".

or

In the first sentence, replace the words "protecting the environment and countering discrimination on all internationally recognized grounds, including race, sex, language or religion" with the words "protecting the environment and countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as discrimination on all grounds stipulated in international human rights law, including race, sex, language and religion".

or

In the first sentence, after the word "countering", insert the words "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

At the end of the first sentence, replace the words "as identified by the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations organs" with the words "as assigned to OHCHR by the competent bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human rights".

Paragraph 19.6

At the end of the first sentence, insert the words "and the treaty-monitoring bodies".

Delete the second sentence.

Replace the third sentence with the following:

"Efforts will continue to further rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights with a view to improving their efficiency and effectiveness, in accordance with relevant resolutions and intergovernmental decisions."

Subprogramme 1
Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis

A. Human rights mainstreaming

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with the following:

"to advance the promotion and protection of all human rights and to further integrate, as appropriate, human rights and their gender dimension into all relevant areas of work of the United Nations system".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the word "environmental".

Insert a new expected accomplishment (d) reading:

"Promotion and mainstreaming of respect for cultural diversity in United Nations activities related to the promotion and protection of human rights".

Indicators of achievement

Insert a new indicator (d) reading:

"Increased number of United Nations projects, activities that further integrates cultural diversity".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.9

In the chapeau, replace the words "bearing in mind" with the words "consistent with".

Replace subparagraphs (b) and (c) with the following:

"Strengthening the substantive engagement and partnership, at the international level, of OHCHR with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies, bearing in mind their respective mandates, and civil society, promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes and ensuring consistency and mutual reinforcement between United Nations-supported development activities and OHCHR country engagement strategies"

and renumber the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly.

or

Replace subparagraph (c) with the following:

"Promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes while seeking to achieve, in coordination with those programmes, each within its respective mandate, consistency and mutual reinforcement between United Nations-supported development activities and country engagement strategies jointly agreed by OHCHR and the concerned Member State".

or

In subparagraph (c), delete the words "Promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes, as well as".

In subparagraph (d), after the words "humanitarian assistance", delete the words "and to facilitate, where appropriate, the advancement of the practical applications of rights-based approaches to all the aforementioned areas".

In subparagraph (e), replace the words "in particular" with the word "including" and insert the word "all" between the words "protect" and "human rights".

B. Right to development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with the following:

"To mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, programmes and funds in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/161".

or

Replace the objective with the following:

"To advance the full realization of the right to development".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), after the word "Further", insert the words "mainstreaming, operationalization and", and after the words "right to development", insert the words "at all levels and improving the effectiveness in this regard, including".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), after the words "Increased number of", insert the words "concrete measures, seminars".

In indicator (b) after the word "activities", insert the word "seminars".

Redesignate indicator (b) as (b) (i) and add a new indicator (b) (ii) reading: "Increased number of advisory services offered and countries participating in technical cooperation relating to the right to development".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.10

At the end of subparagraph (a), add the words "including funds and specialized agencies".

In subparagraph (c), after the words "the right to development" insert the words ", as well as funds and specialized agencies".

At the end of subparagraph (d), add the words "and its periodic evaluation".

In subparagraph (e), delete the words "taking into account a human rights-based approach", and after the words "poverty reduction strategy papers", insert the words ", where they exist".

At the end of subparagraph (g), insert the words "by establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism".

C. Research and analysis

Objective of the Organization

After the words "of all human rights", insert the words "by increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights and".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), before the words "involuntary disappearances", insert the words "enforced or".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "related intolerance" with the words "new forms of discrimination through the implementation of the outcome of the Durban Review Conference of 2009".

or

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words "and continued follow-up to the full implementation of the objectives and commitments set out in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action".

After expected accomplishment (b), insert a new expected accomplishment (c) reading:

"Provision of support for the organization and successful celebration of the Durban Review Conference, including its preparatory process, to be conducted within the framework of the General Assembly in 2009, and support for the implementation of its follow-up".

and redesignate the subsequent expected accomplishments accordingly.

At the end of expected accomplishment (e), insert the words "for all".

Revise expected accomplishment (f) to read:

"Enhanced methodological expertise to implement human rights activities and to provide advice and assistance to Governments, upon their request, and partners within and outside the United Nations system".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b), after the word "measures", insert the words "including seminars, workshops and other activities".

In indicator of achievement (b), replace the words "related intolerance" with the words "new forms of discrimination through the implementation of the outcome of the Durban Review Conference of 2009".

After indicator of achievement (b), insert a new indicator of achievement (c) reading:

"Increased number of measures and resources to support the organization and successful celebration of the Durban Review Conference, including the participation of all the relevant special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the regional preparatory conferences"

and redesignate the subsequent indicators of achievement accordingly.

Strategy

Paragraph 19.11

At the end of subparagraph (a), before the words "involuntary disappearances", insert the words "enforced or".

In subparagraph (a), after the words "democracy and good governance", delete the words "human-rights based approaches to development".

In subparagraph (a), after the words "Millennium Development Goals", delete the words "and poverty reduction strategies; protection of human rights in the context of business activities", and after the words "xenophobia and", insert the words "related intolerance as well as".

In subparagraph (a), after the words "persons belonging to minorities", insert the words "people of African descent".

In subparagraph (b), after the words "policy-oriented analysis", delete the word "monitoring", and after the words "in the areas of human rights", delete the word "protection".

or

In subparagraph (b), after the words "monitoring and assessment methodologies for the implementation of human rights", insert the words "to be presented for the consideration of the Human Rights Council".

Insert a new subparagraph (d) reading:

"Providing effective support for the organization and follow-up of the Durban Review Conference, including its preparatory process, and strengthening the contribution to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including by enhancing assistance provided to the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights treaty bodies

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "to advance the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights by providing" with the words "to provide".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read: "Timely delivery of required substantive and technical support to treaty bodies".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator of achievement (a) (i) to read:

"Increased percentage of documents submitted on time and in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations for the issuance of documentation for consideration by treaty bodies".

Revise indicator of achievement (a) (ii) to read:

"Increased amount of positive feedback received from Member States as a result of the substantive advice provided by the Secretariat to the organs concerned".

In indicator of achievement (b), after the words "Increased number of", insert the words "measures, activities, seminars and workshops to support States parties and".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.12

In subparagraph (b), delete the words "or upon the request of States".

In subparagraph (c), after the words "improvement, rationalization and streamlining of human rights procedures", insert the words "by avoiding the practice of selectivity and the application of a double standard and through the promotion of dialogue and cooperation".

or

Revise subparagraph (c) to read: "Enhancing the effective functioning of human rights treaty bodies".

Insert a new subparagraph (d) reading:

"Assisting human rights treaty bodies in their efforts to make their deliberations and decision-making processes more effective"

and redesignate the subsequent indicators of achievement accordingly.

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities

Objective of the Organization

In the objective, replace the words "to advance the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights by cooperating" by the words "to cooperate".

or

Replace the objective to read:

"to advance the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment of all human rights by providing assistance to requesting States in their efforts to strengthen the implementation of international human rights standards, including by supporting national plans and capacity-building".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), after the words "full realization of", insert the word "all".

In expected accomplishment (e), replace the words "in accordance with" with the words "within the limits of".

Add a new expected accomplishment (f) reading:

"Entrusting an outside independent party to conduct a detailed impact assessment study on the effectiveness and cost versus benefit of the existing field offices, obstacles faced, accomplishments and recommendations in this regard".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator of achievement (a) to read:

"Increased positive feedback from Member States that benefited from OHCHR assistance in the area of legislative reform".

Revise indicator of achievement (c) to read:

"Increased number of institutionalized human rights training and education programmes for relevant actors introduced at the regional, subregional and national levels, with the support of the United Nations human rights programme, including with OHCHR assistance".

In indicator of achievement (d), replace the words "in cooperation with" with the words "of the".

Add a new indicator (f) reading:

"Presentation of the independent impact assessment study together with the comments of OHCHR to the Human Rights Council for its consideration".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.13

In the first sentence of subparagraph (a), after the words "inter alia, by the", insert the word "thematic". In the second sentence, after the words "through joint activities", insert the words "as appropriate".

In subparagraph (b), after the words "the Human Rights Council and other", insert the word "pertinent".

or

Revise subparagraph (b) to read:

"Rapidly deploying human rights special procedures and, where appropriate, fact-finding missions in crisis situations, at the specific request of the Human Rights Council".

In subparagraph (c), in the first sentence, after the words "national level", insert the words "upon request". In the second sentence, after the words "The need to address", insert the words "as appropriate".

or

In subparagraph (c), delete the last sentence.

or

In the last sentence of subparagraph (c), delete the words "including the prompt response to early signs of potential human rights emergencies".

In subparagraph (e), replace the words "addressing human rights gaps" with the words "the appropriate implementation of their respective mandates". Delete the words "country-specific" and at the end of the subparagraph add the words "in accordance with Council resolution 5/2".

Subprogramme 4
Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms

Rename the subprogramme as follows:

"Supporting United Nations human rights organs, such as the Human Rights Council, including its relevant subsidiary organ mechanisms".

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read:

"to provide, as mandated, substantive and technical support as well as advice to United Nations human rights organs, such as the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the Advisory Committee, the special procedures, the universal periodic review and the complaint procedure".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise expected accomplishment (b) to read:

"Timely and effective assistance to States within the framework of the universal periodic review mechanism".

or

Revise expected accomplishment (b) to read:

"Timely and effective assistance to the universal periodic review process as provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and other relevant Council resolutions".

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the word "standards" with the word "instruments" and delete expected accomplishments (d) and (e).

or

Add a new expected accomplishment (f) reading:

"Provision of timely and effective assistance to requesting countries to assist them in the implementation of agreed recommendations of the universal periodic review process, including through the provision of the needed resources to this effect from the relevant universal periodic review trust fund".

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (i), add the words "in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation".

At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (ii), add the words "as a result of the support provided by the Secretariat".

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (ii) and redesignate indicator (b) (i) as (b).

At the end of indicator of achievement (c), delete the words "including with regard to individual communications", and delete indicators (d) and (e).

or

Add a new indicator (f) reading:

"Number of requesting countries assisted in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations funded through the relevant universal periodic review trust fund".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.14

In subparagraph (a), after the words "all available", insert the words "in-house", and replace the words "and advice to" with the words "to United Nations human rights organs such as".

Revise subparagraph (b) to read:

"Enhancing the effective functioning of human rights intergovernmental organs, including the Human Rights Council, through coordinated support for the improvement, rationalization and streamlining of human rights procedures in accordance with their mandates and intergovernmental decisions".

Revise subparagraph (c) to read:

"Continuing engagement with Governments, experts, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to support, as appropriate, the effective functioning of the above-mentioned human rights intergovernmental organs".

or

In subparagraph (c), delete the words "special procedures' findings and recommendations".

or

In subparagraph (c), replace the words "and the universal periodic review outcomes" with the words "approved by the Human Rights Council".

Revise subparagraph (d) to read:

"Strengthening internal research, analytical and educational capability in support of the thematic special procedures and the universal periodic review mechanism with a view to contributing to enhancing, as appropriate, their effectiveness".

Revise subparagraph (e) to read:

"Supporting and providing thematic information and expertise, including through enhanced cooperation with OHCHR geographic desks, to fact-finding missions".

Revise subparagraph (f) to read:

"Disseminating knowledge of the findings, increasing awareness of the work and methodology of the thematic special procedures and the universal periodic review mechanism and improving coordination, where appropriate, among mandate-holders and between them and other mechanisms of the human rights machinery in accordance with their mandates".

In subparagraph (g), delete the words "regional organizations" and replace the words "support to victims of human rights violations" with the words "victims themselves".